

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 /084 W

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R 031652Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5878

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3240

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MO AG

SUBJ: BOUTEFLIKA PROLONGS STAY IN RABAT

REF: RABAT 3206

1. BOUTEFLIKA VISIT HAS BEEN PROLONGED AND HE STILL IN MOROCCO
JULY 3. ADDITIONAL CONSULTATIONS WITH KING HASSAN JULY 2
FOLLOWED TALKS REPORTED REFTEL. PRIMIN OSMAN ALSO PRESENT
DURING SECOND MEETING, WHICH SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS SAYS LASTED
NINETY MINUTES.

2. AFTER FIRST MEETING WITH KING, BOUTEFLIKA REPORTEDLY TOLD
PRESS THAT THEIR TALKS WERE FRANK AND, BETTER YET, "VERY
CONVINCING." PRESENT CONTACTS, HE SAID, WERE INITIATED BY
BOUMEDIENE TO IMPROVE WEAKENED COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE
TWO COUNTRIES AND DISPEL MISUNDERSTANDINGS CREATED BY RHETORIC
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ON "CERTAIN SUBJECTS." BOTH OF BOUTEFLIKA'S STATEMENTS TO PRESS,

WE NOTE, HAVE REFERRED TO REGIONAL OR GEOGRAPHIC PROBLEMS WITHOUT MENTIONING SAHARA SPECIFICALLY.

3. AFTERNOON OF JULY 3, SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS AGENCY, MAP, CARRIED EDITORIAL OF PPS (COMMUNIST) DAILY WHICH EXPRESSED HOPE THAT VISIT MEANT ALGERIA HAS GIVEN UP ITS DESIRE TO ESTABLISH PUPPET STATE RUN BY ITS CREATURE, F POLISARIO. EDITORIAL SAID THAT REMOVAL THIS STUMBLING BLOCK WOULD MEAN ALL POINTS OF CONTENTION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES WOULD BE EXAMINED (BY MOROCCANS) WITH WILL TO BRING THEM TO AN END. PAPER WISHED BOUTEFLIKA ALL SUCCESS IN HIS MISSION.

4. LID ON SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT OF TALKS STILL TIGHT, AND SPECULATION ABOUNDS. BOUTEFLIKA STATEMENT THAT BOUMEDIENE AND KING "HAVE EMBARKED ON POLICY OF CONSULTATIONS ON PROBLEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST" INTERPRETED BY SOME OBSERVERS TO MEAN LACK OF PROGRESS. WELL CONNECTED LOCAL JOURNALIST TELLS US VISIT PROLONGED BY PROPOSITION BY KING WHICH NEEDED EXAMINATION AND REPLY BY ALGIERS. FON MIN SOURCE COMMENTED PRIVATELY THAT MEETINGS HAVE BEEN LENGTHY BECAUSE BOUTEFLIKA CAPABLE OF EMITTING EXTENSIVE VERBIAGE WITHOUT REALLY SAYING VERY MUCH. SOURCE THOUGHT THERE WAS EFFORT UNDERWAY TO HAMMER OUT JOINT COMMUNIQUE, BUT HAD DOUBTS THAT SUFFICIENT COMMON GROUND COULD BE FOUND.

5. COMMENT PROLONGATION OF BOUTEFLIKA'S STAY HAS ADDED FURTHER ELEMENT OF DRAMA AND EXPECTANCY TO THE SUDDEN VISIT. SKEPTICISM ABOUT ANY REAL BREAKTHROUGH IS PREVALENT, BUT TWO SIDES WOULD SEEM TO BE SERIOUSLY EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES FOR TONING DOWN THEIR DIFFERENCES.
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